

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

DECEMBER 2022

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

December was a continuously unsettled month, as eastern Utah and western Colorado fell under a very active storm track for the duration. The month began with a system that brought heavy mountain snow, gusty winds, and snow squall potential to the region. Disturbance after disturbance brought snow to the mountains and even into the valleys, with reinforcing shots of cold air behind them. The first half of the month saw the northern half of the area favored for snow, especially along the Divide. With several inches of snow on valley floors across the north, valley inversions also came into play for places like Vernal, UT and Hayden, CO. A bitter cold Arctic blast moved in from the 16th to the 19th, with northwest Colorado seeing the worst of it, with highs struggling to climb above 0F. Temperatures moderated by the 20th, although remained below average across the area. Unsettled conditions continued into the Christmas week, with mountain snow and bitter temperatures, although Christmas Eve and Christmas Day did see a respite as high pressure brought sunny skies and temperatures at or slightly above normal. The month ended with a prolonged winter storm that brought snow to nearly every part of eastern Utah and western Colorado, while favoring southeast Utah and southwest Colorado the most. Even the Grand Valley saw 4 inches of snow from this storm.



DECEMBER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY



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NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas JANUARY have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

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STORY OF THE MONTH **MID-MONTH ARCTIC AIRMASS**

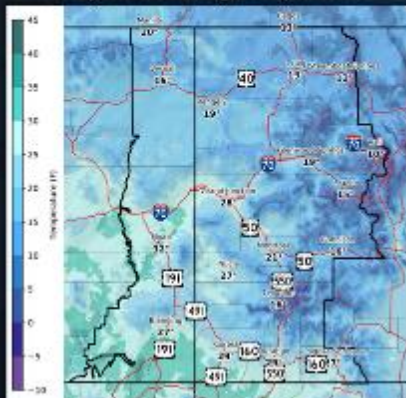
The month of December marked the beginning of meteorological winter, and did not wait to remind everyone of that fact. An unsettled, colder pattern set up near the beginning of the month, bringing snow to the mountains and, by the end of the month, to the valleys as well. Another thing this unsettled pattern brought was a mid-month arctic cold blast. It wasn't record-setting cold, but it was still unusual. The period of the 16th to the 19th saw low temperatures in the single digits above zero all the way down to the negative 20s, with Craig marking the coldest spot with a morning low of -21F on the 19th.

Light Snow Up North Today

Friday, December 16, 2022

[Much Colder Temperatures]

Today's Forecast High Temperatures



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OFFICE AND STATIONARY OBSERVATION

Grand Junction, CO



DECEMBER
2022

TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	21.0 (-0.5)	48 on 12/1	-12 on 12/17
Cortez, CO	30.7 (+2.1)	57 on 12/1	2 on 12/17
Craig, CO	14.5 (-4.2)	47 on 12/1	-21 on 12/19
Durango, CO	27.3 (+1.3)	51 on 12/1	-7 on 12/13
Grand Junction, CO	30.5 (+2.1)	53 on 12/1, 2	9 on 12/18, 19
Meeker, CO	19.2 (-3.2)	47 on 12/1, 4	-16 on 12/17
Montrose, CO	30.1 (+2.8)	55 on 12/1, 11	5 on 12/17
Rifle, CO	25.5 (-0.1)	52 on 12/1, 2	-4 on 12/17
Canyonlands Airport, UT	30.2 (+2.6)	52 on 12/1, 2	6 on 12/19
Vernal, UT	13.6 (-8.6)	36 on 12/2	-17 on 12/18

DECEMBER
2022

PRECIPITATION



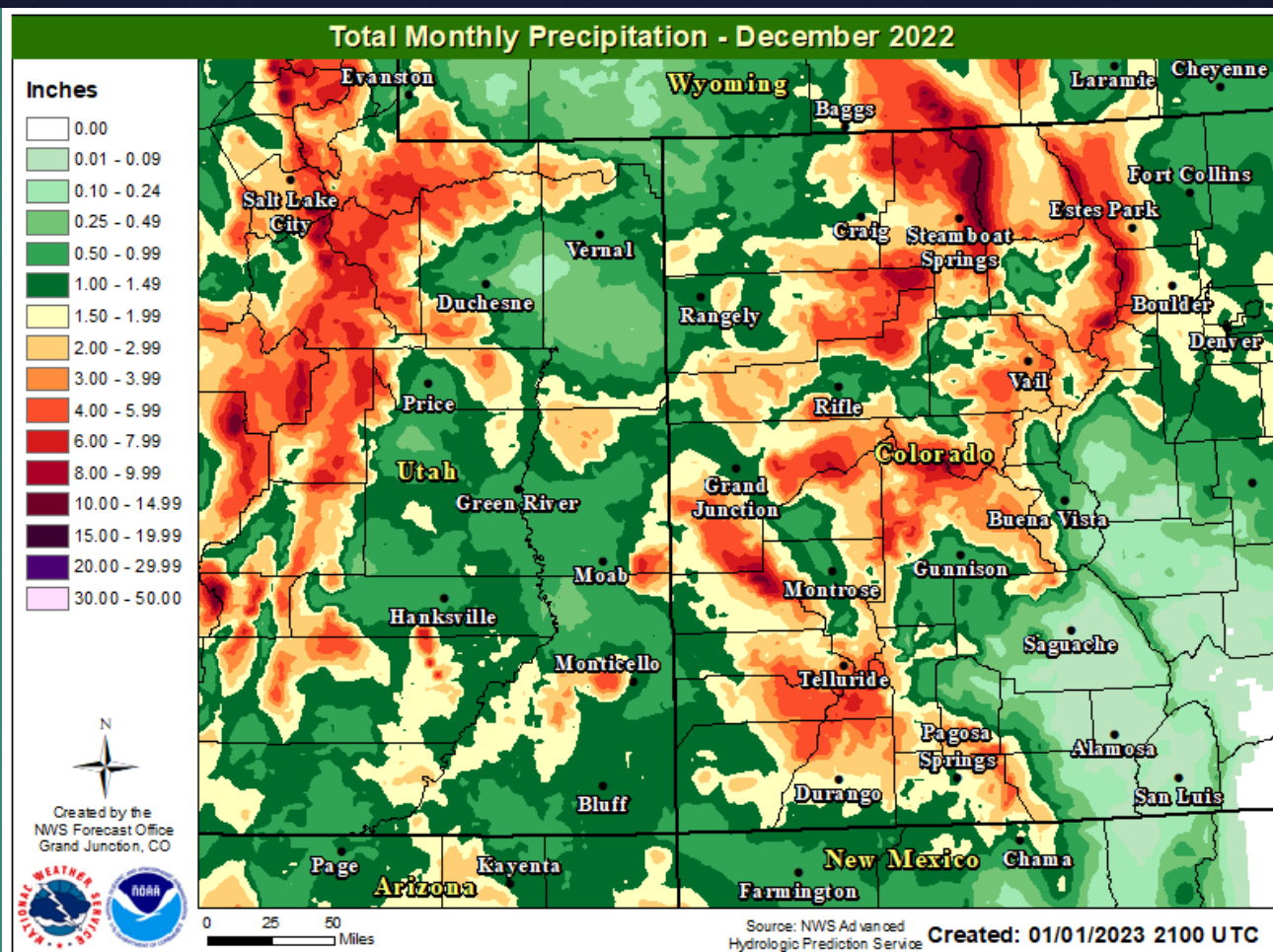
Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.07	+0.25
Cortez, CO	1.53	+0.73
Craig, CO	2.33	+1.43
Durango, CO	1.59	+0.72
Grand Junction, CO	1.29	+0.69
Meeker, CO	1.81	+0.93
Montrose, CO	0.65	+0.19
Rifle, CO	1.93	+1.36
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.51	-0.02
Vernal, UT	0.73	+0.18

DECEMBER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



DECEMBER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY

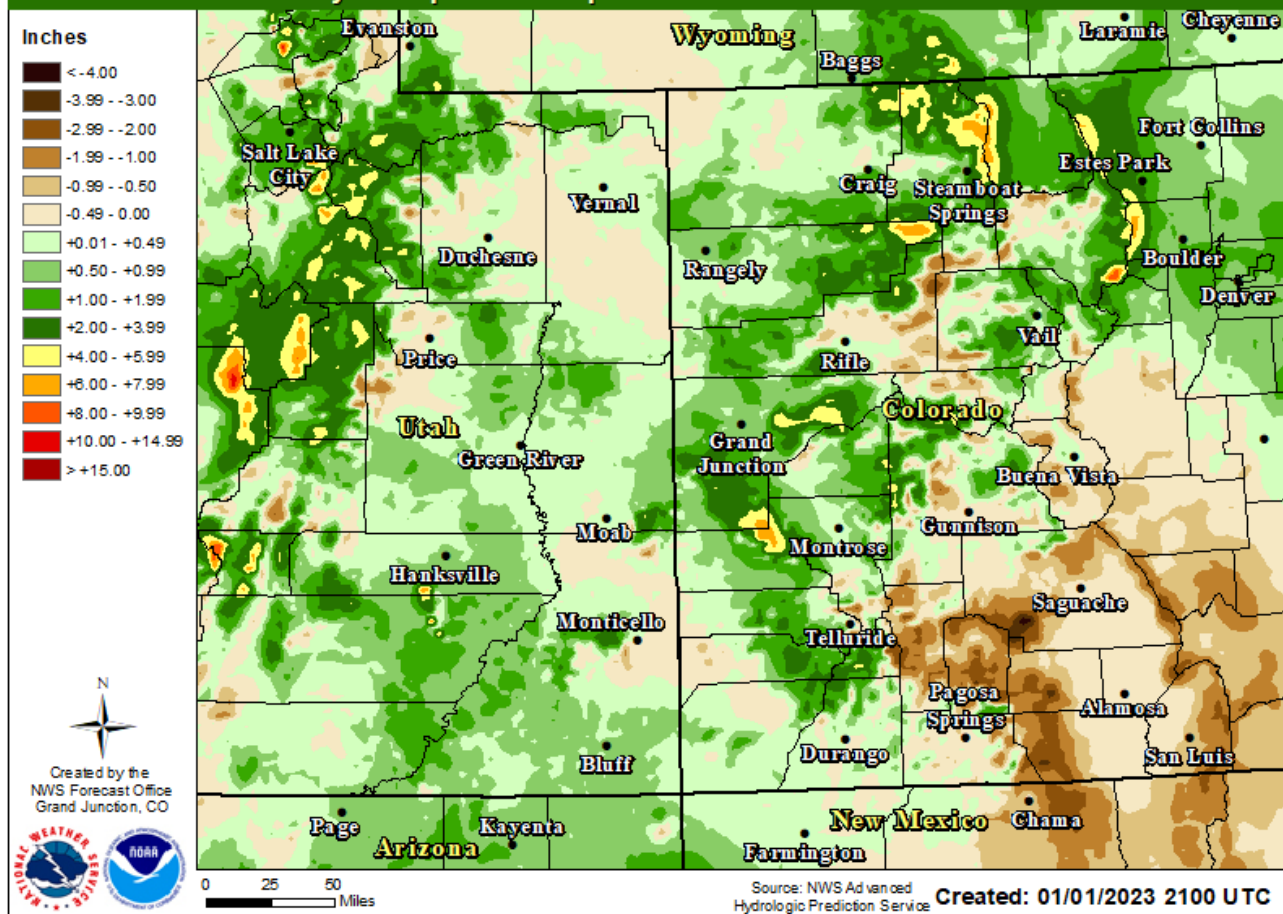


TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal - December 2022



DECEMBER 2022

CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY
RECORDS

R E P O R T

A total of 1 daily record was set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	December 28th	Precipitation	0.62"	0.52", set in 1946

High Max

Low Max

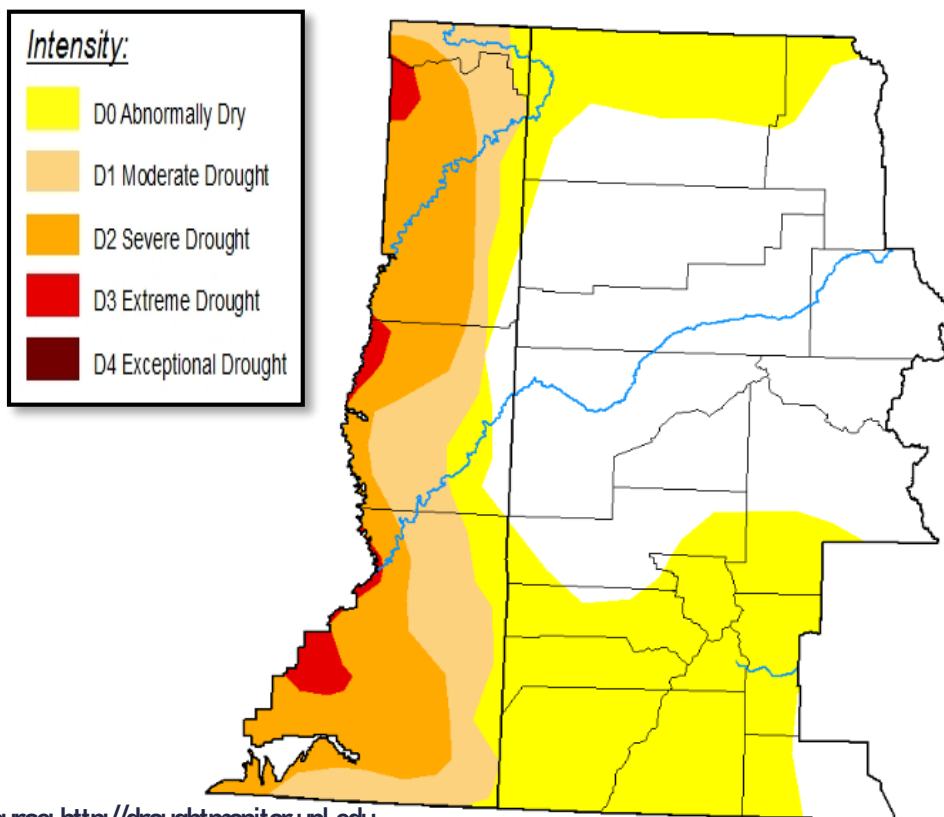
Precip

High Min

Low Min



Areas of Extreme (D3) drought are unchanged since the last update, remaining along the western border of the Grand Junction CWA. Areas of Severe (D2) and Moderate (D1) drought are confined entirely to eastern Utah as of this update. Areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions run along the border between Colorado and Utah, as well as across northwest Colorado and southwest Colorado, including into the southern mountains. The remaining areas have no drought.

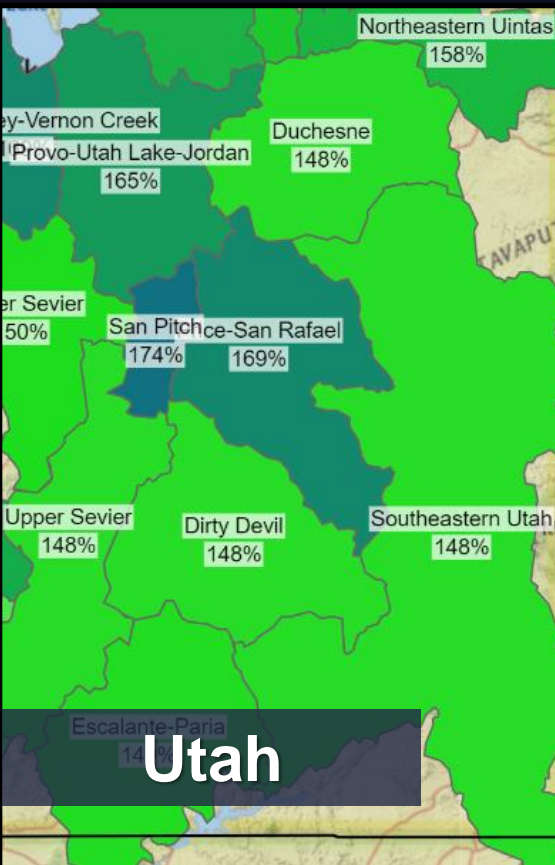


Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

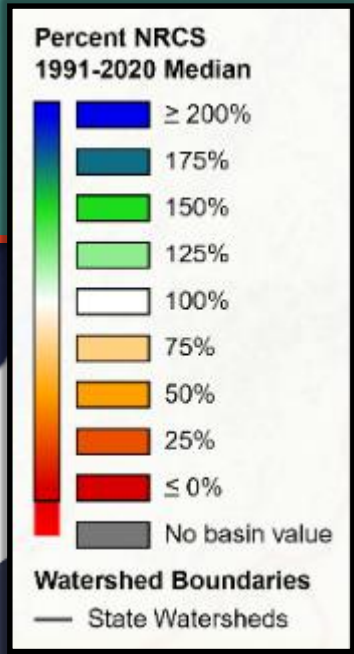
UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY 1st



The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basin of southwest Colorado is sitting at just above 100% of normal for this time of year, while the remaining 3 western Colorado basins finished the month of December at 120-140% of normal thanks to several wet systems at the tail end of the month.

The three eastern Utah basins, the Northeastern Uinta, Duchesne, and southeastern Utah basins, are all running about 150-160% of normal, again thanks to those wet systems.



JANUARY
2022

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



As far as temperatures are concerned, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is indicating that all of eastern Utah and western Colorado have equal chances of seeing above or below normal temperatures in the month of January. For precipitation, CPC forecasts are leaning toward above normal precipitation for the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado, though the eastern portions of the San Juan mountains and some of the Central mountain ranges have equal chances of seeing above or below normal precipitation.

Precipitation

Above

Equal
Chances

Equal
Chances

Temperatures